



Reddit in the Classroom

Professional Development

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As a result of today's professional development, you will be able to:

1. Describe the features of Reddit.com
2. Navigate Reddit.com to find subreddits, participate in the Reddit community, post your own redds, and learn how to establish your own community.
3. Evaluate Reddit.com as a source to be used in your classroom or school district.
4. Write your own lesson plan that capitalizes on the features of Reddit.
5. Reflect on potential uses for Reddit in your practice.

Why learn about Reddit?

- Because kids are using it.
 - It capitalizes on students' out-of-school literacy practices.
 - There are subreddits with specific information, tips, and conversations about education.
 - It's entertaining.
 - It can be used for research.
 - It can be used in your school or classroom.
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Connections Between Reddit and Literacy:

- From a new literacies perspective, using Reddit in the classroom allows students to build on their existing literacies and move away from traditional pen and paper writing toward collaborative, online reading and writing.
 - To participate in the Reddit community, users must read each others' posts and offer feedback by writing comments and rating sources.
 - Posts must be concise and to the point. When submitting a link, authors must decide on an appropriate title to accurately summarize the article and draw the attention of other Reddit members.
 - Users must follow the specified “rediquette” of each individual subreddit when posting. This allows writers to tailor their language to specific audiences and guidelines.
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Peer-Edited Articles That Support the Use of Reddit:

Mu, C. (2011). The impact of new technologies on current awareness tools in academic libraries. *Reference & User Services Quarterly*, 51(2), 92-97.

Social bookmarking sites like Reddit are useful tools and should be added to academic libraries.

Muldrow, J., & Yoder, S. (2009). Out of cite! how reference managers are taking research to the next level. *PS, Political Science & Politics*, 42(1), 167-172.

Reference managers, who are hired to keep track of sources for writers, turn to Web 2.0 tools like Reddit and Zotero to keep track of and find sources, instead of using traditional index cards.

Brainstorming: **Potential Concerns with Using Reddit** **and Possible Solutions**

[illegible]

Tips for Using Reddit

How to post a link on Reddit:

1. Create a username and password by visiting the upper right hand of Reddit.com. Entering your email address is optional.

want to join? [login](#) or [register](#) in seconds | [English](#)

2. Visit the link that you want to post. Copy the URL and then return to Reddit. Click the box in the right-hand corner that says “Submit a Link.”

Submit a link



to anything interesting: news article, blog entry, video, picture...

3. Determine what the title of your submission will be. Then paste the URL. Finally, select the subreddit. You can search for an appropriate subreddit in the box as show below. If you are trying to post to a specific community, make sure you know the specific subreddit name.

submit to reddit

link

text

You are submitting a link. The key to a successful submission is interesting content and a descriptive title.

title

url

suggest title

choose a subreddit

4. You can check back in on your post by clicking “My Reddits” in the upper left-hand corner.

MY REDDITS ▼

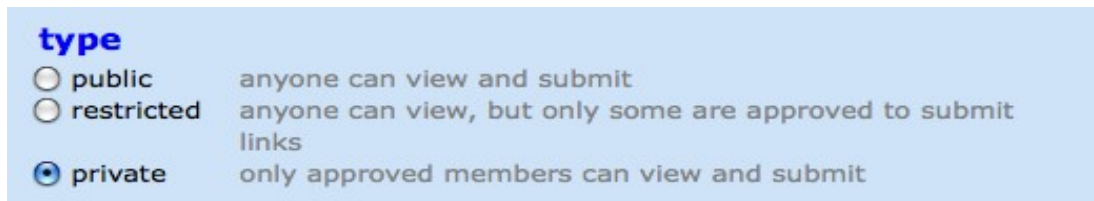


How To Create Your Own Community In Reddit

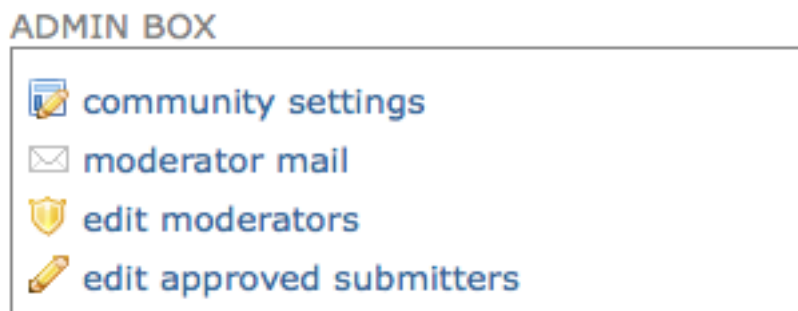
1. After you have been a member for 30 days, you have the option of creating your own community. Although this seems like a long time, creating your own community in Reddit can allow you to have a specific meeting place for your classroom or staff.
2. On the right-hand side of the front page, there will be a link that says, “Create your own community”:



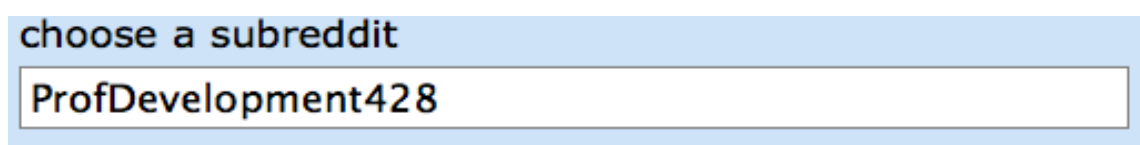
3. Click this link then name your community and add its description.
4. You will also have the option of deciding if the community will be private or public. This is especially useful if you are working in a high school classroom, because you will be able to create a safe space for your students to post:



5. If you do create a private community, however, you will have to list all of the usernames of approved contributors. After you have created your community, click on the “Admin Box” in the lower left-hand corner. Here, you can edit the list of approved submitters:



6. After your students or staff members are added as approved submitters, they can contribute by clicking on “Submit a Link.” When they are prompted to choose a subreddit, they simply type in the name of the community:



Sample Lesson Plan for Using Reddit With Students

11th Grade ELA Classroom

30 Students

40 minutes

Preparation:

1. Sign up for Reddit at least 30 days in advance.
2. Create a community for your class.
3. Make sure that Reddit is unblocked on your school's computer.
4. Talk to technology experts and library media specialists in your school to see if there are ways to block inappropriate content on the website.
5. Get signed parental consent from parents to use Reddit.com.
6. Discuss Internet safety and etiquette with your class prior to teaching this lesson.
7. If you have not covered evaluating web content in your class, make sure you go over this prior to teaching this lesson.
8. If possible, find out if students are already familiar with Reddit. Depending on their familiarity level, spend time before the lesson going over the features of Reddit.

Materials:

1. Computers with Internet access
2. Classroom community on Reddit, pre-established

Objectives:

- Students will join the pre-established Reddit community.
- Students will answer an essential question using online resources.
- Students will evaluate the usefulness of various resources and provide feedback to their peers.

Common Core Standards Addressed:

- RI.11-12.7. Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words in order to address a question or solve a problem.
- W.11-12.6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.
- W.11-12.7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
- W.11-12.8. Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the task, purpose, and audience; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source and following a standard format for citation.

Day 1

Procedures:

Time	Procedures
3-5 min.	<p>Explain that during the next few days, we will be working on answering a classroom essential question. Display the essential question on the board or overhead:</p> <p><i>Should hydrofracking be banned in New York State?</i></p> <p>(Modify essential question to suit your class's needs.)</p>
2 min.	<p>Explain that today we will be searching for sources to help us answer our essential question and that we will be posting our findings on Reddit.com.</p>
5 min.	<p>Ask students to visit Reddit.com and to log in if they already have a username and password or create a username and password. Model the process of creating a username and password, or ask students to help each other, as needed.</p>
5 min.	<p>Once everyone has created their usernames, ask students to turn off their monitors and look at you. Model for students the process of finding a link and posting it on Reddit. If needed, position yourself at the back of the classroom so that you can see that all students' computer monitors are off. This will help ensure that everyone is on the same page.</p>
10-15 min.	<p>Ask students to search for links that will help them answer the essential question. Explain that while they are searching, they should email you their usernames so you can add them as approved submitters to your pre-established subreddit. Recommend that students save their links in their Favorites while you add students' usernames as approved contributors to your subreddit. While students are working on this, add their usernames to the subreddit (as shown on the handout).</p>
Rest of class	<p>Model the process of voting up and down for sources. Explain that the goal is to find the best sources and provide feedback to others. Because the class is answering the essential question as a group, this will be useful for the collaborative process. Ask students to post the links that they pre-saved and then provide feedback on at least one other person's link. Explain that you will be checking to be sure that everyone participates. This time can be used to provide support as needed.</p>

Day 2

Procedures:

Time	Procedures
5-7 min.	Review yesterday's activities. Ask students to sign back into the community and spend 5 minutes looking again at the different sources that were added and the comments and feedback given.
5 min.	Ask pairs to think about the following questions: <i>What type of sources were given the best ratings? What are the features of a useful source? What did you learn while engaging in this activity?</i>
5-10 min.	Ask pairs to share their responses. Record in a Word document or on the whiteboard.
15-20 min.	Ask students to spend the rest of the class using the information they have learned about what makes up a good source to find 2 additional sources and then commenting or rating 2 more sources. Tell students that you will come together during the last 5 minutes to discuss.
Rest of class	<p>Ask students to write a reflection on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Based on your research and the research of others, write one paragraph in response to our initial essential question: <i>Should hydrofracking be banned in New York?</i>2. Write a second paragraph in response to the follow question: <i>How has using Reddit helped you evaluate the sources that you draw upon to answer an essential question while writing?</i> <p>Ask students to post their reflections on the classroom community subreddit either by the end of class or for homework.</p>

Possible Modifications or Extensions: Have students post their ideas on a public subreddit with other members of the Reddit community to see what kind of feedback they receive. If you choose to do this, scout out a good subreddit first that seems to be well-regulated.

Other Possible Lesson Plan Ideas:

1. Use Reddit to help students with summary-writing. Ask students to focus on writing the title of their article. Have students all post the same article on a public subreddit. See whose post gets the best rating and then discuss what features make up a good summary or title.
2. Analyze the “rediquette” of individual subreddits and determine whether or not users' posts fulfill these requirements. Rate posts accordingly.
3. Study the concept of memes (Richard Dawkins). Analyze a particular Reddit meme and the reasons why it might have become so popular.
4. Teach an entire lesson on Internet safety and how to properly respond to inappropriate content on the web.
5. Evaluate the features of Reddit and debate whether or not it should be used in the classroom or workplace.
6. Visit a science, history, or literature subreddit and participate in the discussion.

Ideas For Your Classroom:

Notes:

Please take a moment to complete the following questionnaire

1. Why did you sign up for this professional development? Circle all that apply:

I wanted to learn more about Reddit.

I wanted to learn more about Web 2.0 tools.

It was required by my school.

I needed professional development hours.

Other: _____

2. What were your goals for today's professional development?

I wanted to find ways to use Reddit in my class.

I wanted to learn how Reddit works and what it is.

I wanted to explore new technology and Web 2.0 tools.

Other: _____

3. What was the most useful part of today's professional development?

Learning the features of Reddit

Evaluating whether or not Reddit can be used in my class.

Brainstorming ways to use Reddit in my class.

Learning how to use Reddit.

Seeing lessons plans that incorporate Reddit.

Writing my own lesson plans that incorporate Reddit.

4. Overall, was today's professional development helpful to you? Why or why not?

5. Is there anything you wish I had done differently?